

Your Name: Allison Fortin

## Form for Evaluating Internet Information Resources

(NOTE: This form is not for evaluating productivity software/sites, simulation games/sites, or educational software/games/sites)

1. **URL of Web page being evaluated:** <http://www.biography.com/people/william-shakespeare-9480323>
2. **Primary use (students, teacher, parent, other,...):** Students, teachers, parents, public

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*Questions 3-10 are about the site that is hosting your page.*

3. **Truncate the URL of the Web page. What is the domain name of the Web site?**  
<http://www.biography.com/>
4. **What is the name of Web site?** Bio.truestory
5. **What is the purpose or goal of this Web site?** To provide biographies of well-known public figures both in the past and in the present.
6. **What organization or individual created this site?** A+E Television Networks
7. **What affiliations/purpose/audience do they have that might create a built-in bias toward the information? What is that bias?** (Note: every site has bias, you just have to be aware of what that bias is and be prepared to defend it or present information from other viewpoints.) The website makes William Shakespeare out to completely be a heterosexual and it does not address the conspiracy about his sexuality. Although there is no concrete proof that he was a homosexual, the fact that the website did not even mention suggests that the website wants readers to not question Shakespeare's sexuality at all.
8. **What other types of organizations link to this site?** Newsy
9. **Is there a way to provide feedback on the Web site and create an exchange with the author or Web site manager?** Yes, they have a FAQ/Contact Us page that allows you to send feedback to the website creators about the website or ask them questions in you are having troubleshoot problems or have any other questions that you would like answered.

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*Questions 10-12 are about the specific page that has information for your project/unit:*

10. **Who is the author of the page and does that person have valid credentials to present this information (the creator of the site is not always the author of a page within the site)?** No author is provided, therefore it is uncertain whether the information presented is credible.
11. **What other references are cited for the information presented?** There are no references cited for the information presented.
12. **How old is the material on the page? Is it current or outdated (copyright year is not the same as the last update)?** It does not say. It only gives the copyright year, which is 2014.

*Final evaluation questions:*

- 13. Are there ads linked to the page or the site that might make this page inappropriate for your audience? Are the ads “sticky” or static? If there are no ads, how is this Web site paid for (where do they get their money)?** There are ads linked to the page. They may be distracting, but they are not inappropriate for the audience (ads for Hannaford, Home Made Simple, and Wyman's of Maine, Personal Loan Services, No Credit Is Okay, My Forex Secret Sauce, and Brain Training Games).
- 14. Is there other content on the site that appears affiliated with the information you've selected that might make this page inappropriate** (a Web site with great tutorials on how to make good movies with sections on how to make a documentary, a biography, an infomercial, etc. might also have a tutorial on making an inappropriate movie)? There is no content affiliated with the information of William Shakespeare that seems inappropriate.
- 15. How helpful is this site/page to you? Does it have the information you need and feel confident using?** This site was somewhat helpful. I definitely feel like it sums about William Shakespeare, but that's a bit of the problem. It just sums up William Shakespeare in the way that the website wants to portray him. They did not say anything about the conspiracy theory about his sexuality nor did the website bring up the financial troubles that Shakespeare may or may not have been having concerning his personal life. Therefore, I think it does a fair job of informing people about Shakespeare, but readers should still visit other websites about Shakespeare so that they make sure that they are getting the entire picture of his life and not just what this website wants us to see.
- 16. Describe how this Web site/page might be used in your project/unit:** This website can be used to inform my students more about William Shakespeare and perhaps help give them more insight and ideas to play around with that concern why he wrote *Much Ado About Nothing*. This could be a possible Student Data Notebook question.
- 17. Reviewing your answers above, is this a good page/site to use for your project/unit? Why or why not?** (NOTE: Some questions above may not apply to your page; there is no rule as to how many “correct” answers are needed for a page to be good or what constitutes a “bad” page. You just need to be able to justify your choices and the information above can provide good support.) I would say that this is a bad site. I say this because I could not find the specific author who wrote the page, therefore I have no idea if the information is credible. The website also said that if something doesn't seem factual on one of their biographies, to contact them about it, which suggests that the website isn't even confident in their abilities to get all of the facts right (not very reassuring). Lastly, the website is extremely bias about portraying Shakespeare in the best light and forgetting about pieces of personal life that are still up for debate, but are still worthy of talking about. I would want to make sure that the sites I use are factual, but I don't with this site and I also don't want to use a site that is biased because I want my students to see the largest picture of Shakespeare so that they have all of the facts to have their own ideas and opinions about him, which are not influenced by a biased perspective.